

Application No.: 09/729,262
Amendment Dated: July 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: April 22, 2004

MAT-8067US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bowden, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,357). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicant's claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant acknowledges that Bowden discloses a VPN and communication method for connecting between a LAN and a WAN. The Office Action goes on to allege, however, that Bowden also discloses adding a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) to internet key exchange (IKE) data. Applicants respectfully disagree. Thus, Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

. . . adding a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) communication option to an internet key exchange (IKE) data, when establishing an IKE communication with said terminal outside the LAN . . .

distributing a second IP address from a terminal within the LAN to the terminal outside the LAN during the IKE communication . . .

Thus, in accordance with claim 1, the second IP address is automatically distributed by the DHCP function. The Official Action indicates that Bowden, column 4, lines 16-27 corresponds to DHCP. This is not correct. Bowden only teaches that a user defines a pair of IP addresses. Bowden does not teach automatically providing an IP address as is done by DHCP.

It is because Applicant's invention automatically distributes the second IP address by the DHCP function that a terminal within the LAN can be easily accessed from outside the LAN while maintaining security. In this manner, secure VPN communication, in which a terminal outside the LAN is virtually situated under the LAN environment, is realized.

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The feature of automatically generating the second IP address from inside of the LAN, a result of dynamic host configuration protocol communication, is neither disclosed nor suggested by Bowden. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Bowden.

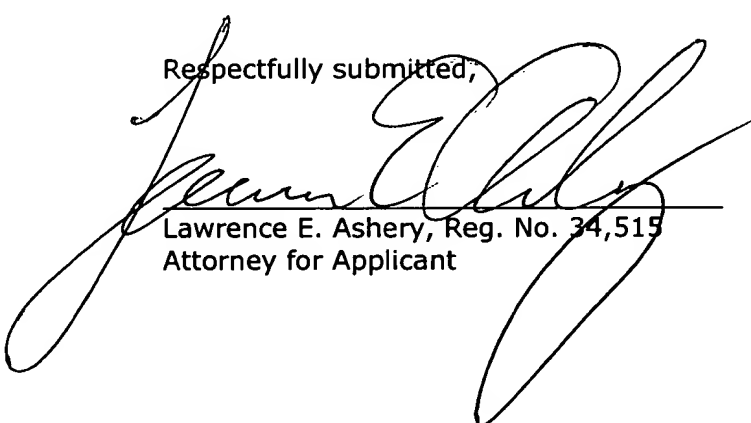
Claim 6, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over Bowden for reasons similar to those set forth above.

Claims 19-22 are newly added. Consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims include the features of the respective independent claims from which they depend. Accordingly, the dependent claims are also patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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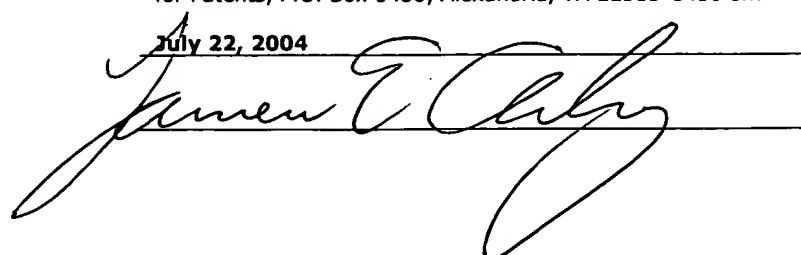
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